



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Growth Management Hearings Board Decides in Favor of City Shoreline Master Program

Bainbridge Island, Wash., (April, 2015) In its Final Decision and Order, the Growth Management Hearings Board concluded that in the Case of Preserve Responsible Shoreline Management (PRSM), et al, and Kitsap County Association of Realtors (KCAR) v. City of Bainbridge Island and the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Petitioners failed to provide clear and convincing evidence demonstrating that the City's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) was inconsistent, or failed to comply, with the Shoreline Management Act or applicable guidelines.

On April 8, 2015 the City of Bainbridge Island received the Final Decision and Order. In the decision, the Growth Management Hearings Board concluded that the Petitioners failed to demonstrate that the actions of the City and the Department of Ecology violated the provisions of the Shoreline Management Act and Master Program Guidelines. The Growth Management Hearings Board denied the appeal and dismissed the case.

The City adopted its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) on July 14, 2014. The SMP was approved by the Department of Ecology on July 16, 2014. On October 7, 2014, PRSM filed a petition with the Growth Management Hearings Board for review, and challenged the adoption of the SMP for failure to comply with various provisions of the Shoreline Management Act and the Growth Management Act. The petition outlined 52 legal issues and 39 sub-issues.

After receiving the decision, City Manager, Doug Schulze stated that he was, "...pleased, but not surprised, with the Growth Management Hearing Board's Decision. The City hopes that the decision will allow for staff to turn their focus and limited resources to other important matters, such as ensuring a robust and inclusive Comprehensive Plan Update process."

To view the Growth Management Hearings Board's Final Decision and Order in its entirety visit the Public Records section of the City website at www.bainbridgewa.gov.

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